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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/584,080	06/22/2006	Giovanni Martini	09952.0064	8765

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EXAMINER

EL-ZOOBI, MARIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

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09/09/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/584,080	Applicant(s) MARTINI, GIOVANNI	
	Examiner MARIA EL-ZOOBI	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 34, 36-44, 46-51, 53-61, 63-64 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Metcalf (US 20010040671).

Regarding claim 34, Metcalf discloses, an electronic device for viewing images comprising a viewing surface, said viewing surface being substantially continuous and having a plurality of directions of frontal observation distributed continuously in an angular field of observation (Paragraph 0003-0004 and 0030)

Regarding claim 36, Metcalf discloses, wherein said angular field of observation is substantially equal to 360° (Paragraph 0030 and 0032).

Regarding claim 37, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface is a surface with single curvature (Paragraph 000030 and 0032).

Regarding claim 38, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface is a surface with double curvature (Paragraph 000030 and 0032).

Regarding claim 39, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface is a convex surface (Paragraph 0030 and 0032).

Regarding claim 40, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface has, at least in part, cylindrical shape (Paragraph 0030- 0032 and 0049).

Regarding claim 41, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface is substantially cylindrical (Paragraph 0030, 0032 and 0049).

Regarding claim 42, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface comprises at least a flexible, curved viewing element (Paragraph 0030-0030 and 0049).

Regarding claim 43, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface comprises a plurality of viewing elements (Paragraph 0030-0030 and 0049, also see Fig. 1, el. 32 and 14).

Regarding claim 44, Metcalf discloses, a module for processing video signals capable of being fed with an incoming video stream and capable of dividing said stream into a plurality of sub-streams, each of which is sent to one of said display elements of said plurality of sub-streams (Paragraph 0045-0047).

Regarding claim 46, Metcalf discloses, comprising a processing module associated therewith capable of being fed with a stream of video signals representing a

panoramic image having an extension in the direction of the width, said processing module being capable of varying the position of representation of said panoramic image on said viewing surface with a sliding effect of said panoramic image in the direction of said width (Paragraph 0030,0045-0047).

Regarding claim 47, Metcalf discloses, at least a loudspeaker for the reproduction of an audio signal associated with said viewing surface (Paragraph 0042).

Regarding claim 48, Metcalf discloses, a plurality of loudspeakers distributed in said angular field (Paragraph 0042).

Regarding claim 49, Metcalf discloses, a display module for driving the viewing of an image on said viewing surface and an audio reproduction module for reproducing respective audio signals through the loudspeakers of said plurality (Paragraph 0042-0045).

Regarding claim 50, Metcalf discloses, wherein said display module and said audio reproduction module are operatively connected to convey to each of the loudspeakers of said plurality a respective audio signal referred to the portion of image displayed in a portion of said viewing surface adjacent to said loudspeaker (Paragraph 0042-0045 and 0052-0055).

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Regarding claim 51, Metcalf discloses, an imaging unit for capturing panoramic Images (Paragraph 0046-0047 and 0052-0055).

Regarding claim 53, Metcalf discloses, configured to reproduce on said viewing surface the images captured by said imaging unit (Paragraph 0046-0047 and 0052-0055).

Regarding claim 54, Metcalf discloses, wherein said imaging unit is located in a remote position relative to said display unit (Paragraph 0052-0056 and Fig. 4-6).

Regarding claim 55, Metcalf discloses, wherein said imaging unit is connected to said device by means of a telecommunication channel (Paragraph 0053).

Regarding claim 56, Metcalf discloses, wherein said imaging unit and said viewing surface are mounted on a common support (Fig. 1, el. 56 and Paragraph 0031-0033).

Regarding claim 57, Metcalf discloses, said imaging unit and said viewing surface have a common main axis (Fig. 1, el. 56 and Paragraph 0031-0033).

Regarding claim 58, Metcalf discloses, wherein said imaging unit is, at least in

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part, located in an inner position relative to said viewing surface (Paragraph 0052-0057).

Regarding claim 59, Metcalf discloses, wherein said imaging unit is located in a distanced position relative to said viewing surface (Paragraph 0052-0057).

Regarding claim 60, Metcalf discloses, at least a network interface configured to: transmit to a homologous device the panoramic images captured by said imaging unit, and receive from said homologous device image signals to be displayed on said viewing surface (Paragraph 0056 and 0069).

Regarding claim 61, Metcalf discloses, wherein said device comprises at least an interface configured to allow communication with said homologous device by means of a communication network (Paragraph 0056, 0061 and 0069).

Regarding claim 63, Metcalf discloses, wherein said at least one interface is configured to allow a wireless communication (Paragraph 0045).

Regarding claim 64, Metcalf discloses, a videoconference facility comprising at least a device as claimed in claim 60 (Paragraph 0061).

Regarding claim 65, Metcalf discloses, a videoconference network comprising at least a first and a second device as claimed in claim 60, capable of connecting with

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each other (Paragraph 0061).

Regarding claim 66, see claim 34 rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 45, 35 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metcalf (US 20010040671).

Regarding claim 45, Metcalf discloses, wherein said viewing surface is obtained with a TFT viewing structure (Paragraph 0059).

Although Metcalf does not explicitly teach that the viewing surface is also obtained with LED or OLED, Metcalf discloses that the viewing surface could be CRT, LCD, any variety of pixels element display, gas plasma display, HDTV, flexible pixel element display. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Metcalf so the viewing surface would be LED or OLED in order to improve the system and yield more predictable results.

Regarding claim 35, Metcalf discloses, wherein said angular field of observation is up to 360 degree (Paragraph 0032).

Metcalf does not explicitly teach that said angular field of observation is no smaller than

180°.

However, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Metcalf so the angular field of observation is no smaller than 180° in order to provide a better image.

Regarding claim 62, Metcalf discloses, communication network (paragraph 0061).

Although Metcalf does not explicitly discloses, wherein said communication network is selected from the group of a wide area network, the internet and a WLAN network, Metcalf discloses that the communication network could be wired, wireless or optic; therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Metcalf to include any type of network in order to increase the system capabilities and yield more predictable results.

5. Claim 52 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Metcalf (US 20010040671) in view of Oren (US 6,208,369).

Regarding claim 52, Metcalf discloses, imaging unit.

Metcalf does not disclose that the imaging unit comprises anamorphic optics.

Oren discloses an apparatus for recording an image, wherein the imaging unit comprises anamorphic optics.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to modify Metcalf with Oren to include anamorphic optics to improve the system to produce an image the full height of the frame and twice the width.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARIA EL-ZOOBI whose telephone number is (571)270-3434. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8AM-5 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. E./

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Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/CURTIS KUNTZ/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614